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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh R. Sharkey et al.                      Art Unit : 3739  
Serial No. : 09/884,859                                      Examiner : Kenneth G. Schopfer  
Filed : June 18, 2001  
Title : METHOD OF TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TISSUE EMPLOYING  
ATTACHMENT MECHANISM (As amended)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

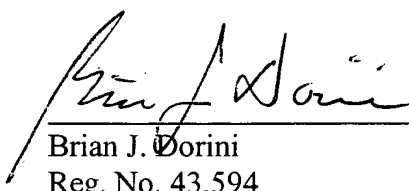
PETITION FOR THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136, applicant hereby petitions that the period for response to the action dated September 12, 2002, be extended for three months to and including March 12, 2003.

Enclosed is a check for \$930 for the required fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: MARCH 12, 2003

  
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